143. Desirability of appointing separate stamp vendors to sell court-fees stamps

M.r. Narayanan Madhavan Karthavu (Shertallay) represented that at present the cashkeepers of civil courts were saddled with the duty of selling court-fees stamps and, as these men had a multiplicity of duties to attend to, parties and pleaders were put to no inconsiderable difficulty in getting stamps from them. He therefore prayed that court-fees stamps might be directed to be sold from the taluk or sub-registrars' offices and that on all occasions the taluk authorities might be asked to supply stamps in cases of urgency.

Reply.—The general principle is to appoint licensed vendors for the sale of stamps everywhere, it being not desirable to burden Government employés, appointed to do particular works, with this additional function. If a particular vendor does not do his duty properly, it cannot affect the system. Any remissness on the part of licensed vendors will be noticed, on representation being made to the authorities concerned. The system of cash-keepers being entrusted with the duty of sale of stamps is still obtaining in some places owing to the difficulty of retiring or providing for the existing hands who have practically no other work to do. As these hands retire, they are being and will be replaced by licensed vendors.

144. Arrangement for the sale of all kinds of stamps in every proverty as also direct from the taluk, allowing decent discount for the vendors.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Pillai (Chengannur) said that it was desirable to give a fair percentage of discount to licensed stamp vendors. Their present number was disproportionately small as compared with the requirements, and the convenience of the public would be secured only by the appointment of a stamp vendor for every proverty. If this was not possible, arrangements might be made for the stamp kilkuttam accountant of the taluk who was now utilized for other work selling stamp papers and additional vendors appointed for the sale of court-fees stamps, until the cash-keepers of civil courts who were now burdened with that duty were replaced by licensed vendors.

Mr. K. Kochu Thomman (Chengannur) also spoke on the subject.

Reply.—One or more vendors are appointed for each taluk according to actual requirements and their number will be increased wherever necessary. Court-fees stamps are not now given to licensed

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vendors, wherever cash-keepers attached to civil courts have been entrusted with that work. But, as already stated, with their gradual disappearance the vendors will be asked to sell court-fees stamps also.

145. Grant of permission for local cultivation of ganja, tobacco and opium.

Mr. Nrayanan Madhavan Karthavu (*Shertallay*) *and Mr. V. Sankaranarayana Iyer, B. A., B. L.,* (*Agastiswaram*) prayed for permission being given to the ryots of the State for the cultivation of ganja and tobacco.

Mr. K. S. Shanmukham Pillai (*Agricultural Improvement Association, South Travancore*) requested that in addition to the above, permission might be granted for the cultivation of opium also and that the concession might at first be restricted to some particular tract and afterwards extended to other parts, if found practicable.

Reply.—There are very many practical difficulties in allowing the free cultivation of opium, ganja and tobacco. The matter is, however, engaging the attention of Government. As regards ganja section 10 of Regulation IV of 1073 provides for permission being given for its cultivation under certain conditions. The manufacture of opium is regulated by section 4 of Regulation VI of 1063.

146. Reduction of Mel-labhom duty on tobacco.

Mr. R. Narayana Pillai (*Ettumanur*) represented that the mel-labhom levied by Government on tobacco was higher than what obtained in Cochin and prayed for a reduction of the same.

Reply.—This affects the finances and it does not now seem expedient to reduce the Mel-labhom.

147. Desirability of giving out Abkari contracts by proverties, instead of by taluks as at present.

Mr. N. Narayanan Karthavu (*Shertallay*) suggested that the Abkari contracts might be given out proverty by proverty instead of by taluk as was the practice at present, as it was only under the proposed arrangement that the natives of the State, who were generally poor, would be able to take up and thereby profit by these contracts.

Reply.—The contract is now being sold by taluk and it is not possible to go down to proverties.

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